



TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

Board of Health

**North Reading Board of Health Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021
Teleconference/Virtual**

Members Present: Gary Hunt, Chairman
Karen Martin
Pam Vath

Others Present:

Robert Bracey, Health Agent
Steven O'Leary
Michael Gilberto, TA
Mary Samost

Stephanie Connolly
Doug Richards
Suresh

RECEIVED
2022 JAN 14 AM 9:10
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
NORTH READING, MASS.

7:00 PM

Mr. Gary Hunt opened the meeting.

Minutes

Previous minutes are being reviewed.

New Business:

Public Comment:

None

Public Health Nurse Report:

July 1 to November 18, 2021 COVID - 19 Data

Total of cases 382

4 # of new cases at Nursing Homes (staff)

237 # of new cases of unvaccinated residents

145 # of cases of vaccinated residents – Breakthrough cases

- 100 # of Pfizer

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- 32 # of Moderna
- 13 # of Janssen

Ages - Years	Unvaccinated	Vaccinated		Comments
< 11	52	0		
12 - 15	14	3		
16 - 19	11	9		
20 - 29	50	21		
30 - 49	53	48		
50 - 64	36	42		
65 - 74	12	9		
75 and older	9	13		
Total	237	145		382 Cases

Pam reported that there have been a couple of smaller clusters in a daycare and a few cases in the Schools though it seems that right now the Town is doing well. It also seems that the older population is not getting re-infected as much as the 20 to 50 age groups. This week there have been 24 new cases, roughly 5 patients a day. The numbers are showing that there is just about a 50/50 split between vaccinated and unvaccinated. Pam is in close contact with the School Nurses regarding any cases there. The Health Department has worked with the State and will have a vaccine clinic on Monday 11/22/2021 at the Hillview CC from 11-7. This is open to children as well as boosters and Influenza. Suresh requested the numbers for the amount of eligible people in Town that have been vaccinated. At this time the Town is roughly 80% of those people vaccinated. Gary acknowledged that we have a lot of data at this point where as a year ago we were in a much different place. With the amount of data that is available this should be what is driving policies not politics or speculation.

Health Director Report:

At this time the percent positive Town wide daily is 2.18% which is a little higher than last week's 1.47%. Please see attached chart for the breakdown of vaccinated by age groups. We are now able to report on the children in the age group of 5-11 whereas they now qualify for the vaccine. Individual's with at least one dose in the age range is at 9%. The Health Department has seen a decent amount of children coming to our clinics. Suresh believes that we are not close to herd immunity. Gary raised the question on if we are topping out. The clinics here in Town are

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still supporting a good turn out with the clinics from the beginning of November to now having 609 individuals vaccinated. Suresh acknowledge a job well done at the Clinics, he had come with his wife and thought that the whole thing was organized and run extremely well.

Food Establishments:

Royal Meadow View Nursing Center has submitted their annual food establishment permit application. In the required documents it appears that a name was covered over and another written in. Mr. Bracey has been in contact with the management and explained the potential action that can be taken if the documents are falsified. The management is very concerned about this happening and has taking action in this matter.

Nicks- Still under construction and will need to call for a final inspection before opening

Hopothecary Ales Brewery and Kitchen- had a site inspection recently and will be doing a soft opening and trainings. They are hopeful to open by the end of November.

Title V-Petition of the Board

Installer Doug Richards has petitioned the Board to reconsider that amount of Licenses that are required to be held from other communities to be able to hold a license in North Reading. The currently policy states that in order to obtain a license in N.R. you need

1. Current Massachusetts Hoisting License.
2. Current Workers Compensation Insurance.
3. Current copies of secondary/third installers licenses in other city/towns

Mr. Richards explained that with COVID hardships many Installers have had to let a License from other community lapse. In addition many Installers are typically working in one to two communities as the amount of work is so high, for example he primarily works in North Reading and Wilmington. Due to that amount of work available, holding a third license for another community that he would not have time for doesn't seem necessary.

Bob is in support of this as there is a high demand of work in the Town especially with home sales. This would also give an opportunity to be able to bring on new Installers. Gary stated that many of the surrounding towns such as Wilmington only require one other community's license. Pam asked how long the current policy has been in place. This policy has been in place for roughly 4 years. Before then the Town had a lot more Installers but many did not renew when the policy changed to needing two other. Karen is also in support of decreasing the number to one with the thought that if poor work and/ or compliance becomes an issue the Board could revisit this topic and vote to increase the amount of licenses required.

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Karen Motioned: to decrease the number of licenses required by septic installers here in North Reading, reducing the number from two to one.

Motion seconded by Pam Vath.

All members voted unanimously in favor.

Installer Ralph Simard has petitioned the Board to increase on-site sewage disposal system percolation permit fee from \$100.00-\$200.00. In order to allocate the permit fee differential to provide additional support staff coverage 5 days a week annually for the duration of the season. Many of the Installers are feeling that Bob doesn't have enough time to devote to Title V and in turn they are waiting longer for inspections to be able to take place. This has led to complaints to the Installers from homeowners and realtors about the length of time work is taking. The Installers have passed along the frustration to the Health Department regarding this topic over the past couple of years especially last year with COVID. At times also complaining to the Town Administrator and/ or Director of Public Safety. Gary wants to make sure that if the Board were to vote in favor of this that a revolving account be set up specifically for these monies and only to be used to pay for an additional inspector. The Health Department has been working over the past couple of years to help educate the public and realtors of the process and timeframe that Title V work can take in order to help with this frustration. In the past couple of weeks the complaints have increased again. Mr. Bracey did advise the Installers that they might want to seek assistance through the Board. Last year with approval, the Health Department was able to bring on Alex Parker to assist with soil testing. Alex was a great help throughout Title V season, many of the Installers passed on how helpful he was. Mr. O'Leary remarked that response time has historically been a complaint that they have heard and asked if people were being replied to in a timely manner. Gary discussed just some of the demands that are placed on the Health Director stating that there clearly is not enough time in the day to accommodate all these aspects. Mr. O'Leary has said that he is willing to consider this option if it is truly needed. He would like to see how many applications come in, how many hours would be needed and so forth. He also suggested that a person on consult maybe a way to go as well. Pam and Gary would like to see that there be consideration to at least a part time person seasonally, but the Board thinks that another inspector is needed. Pam agrees that it appears that Bob needs more assistance than the department as a whole does. Mr. Gilleberto said that this is the first that he was hearing about this petition and would need to talk more to it in a future meeting. Bob spoke to the fact that Mr. Gilleberto and Chief Murphy have been very helpful and supportive during the past year.

Chapter 3 Local Regulation Hearing

The Board of Health rules and regulations as well as local regulations have been combined and formatted into chapter 3. KP Law is currently looking over this purposed document. The purposed document has also been posted to the Health Department website to view, <https://www.northreadingma.gov/health-department/news/psa-public-hearing-board-health-regulations-chapter-3>

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The Board has done a peer review and is comfortable with the rules and regulations, but hesitant on voting until KP Law returns it with any recommendations or blessing. Mr. Gilleberto said that it should be back by Tuesday. The Board opened the hearing to public comment. Public comment- None.

Karen Motioned: to continue the public hearing regarding chapter 3 until 11/23/2021 @7pm

Motion seconded by Gary Hunt.

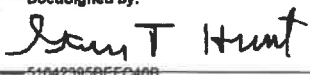
All members voted unanimously in favor.

Next Board of Health Meeting is to be scheduled for December 15th at 7:00 PM.

Gary Hunt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Motion seconded by Pam Vath.

All members voted unanimously in favor.

DocuSigned by:

516423958EFC408...
Gary Hunt

DocuSigned by:

5A9AF14FEB41408...
Pamela Vath

DocuSigned by:

182DA173D478487...
Karen Martin

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